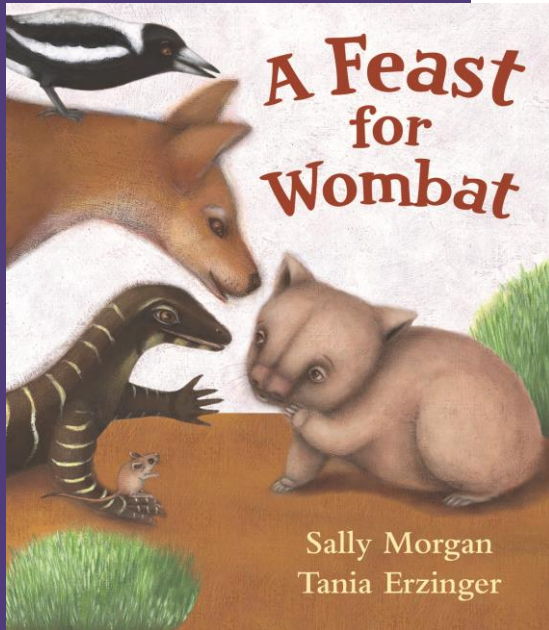


Teachers' Notes

A Feast for Wombat

Written by Sally Morgan
Illustrated by Tania Erzinger

Teachers' Notes by Rae Carlyle



OMNIBUS BOOKS

Category	Picture Book
Title	A Feast for Wombat
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Illustrator	Tania Erzinger
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Introduction

Wombat has been digging and hanging around in his burrow all day, but he starts to feel lonely and leaves his safe warm space to see what his friends are doing. Happy to see him, his friends try to include him in their play. Wombat thinks his friends are special, and admires all the clever things they can do. But when Wombat realises that he will never sing like Magpie, dance like Dingo, or run like Goanna, he is sad, and tries to return to his burrow. His friends, however, have a different plan. After all, they think that Wombat is special too!

About the Author

Sally Morgan is an Australian Aboriginal author, dramatist and artist, widely known for her first book, *My Place*.

Sally was born in Perth, Western Australia, in 1951. She is a full-time painter and writer. For as long as she can remember Sally wanted to paint and write. However, at school she was discouraged from expressing herself through her art because her teachers failed to see the promise in her individual style. It was not until she researched her family history and discovered her Aboriginal identity that she found meaning in her images, and gained the confidence to pick up her paints again. Both her books and her artwork have earned awards and widespread popularity. Her artwork is represented in many collections both in Australia and overseas.

About the Illustrator

Tania Erzinger is an Australian artist and illustrator who loves to draw, paint, and collage things. She has completed a Graduate Diploma in Illustration and Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication) from UniSA.

Painted mainly in acrylics on various surfaces, incorporating collage and drawing, Tania's artwork is inspired by nature (she has a particular fondness for animals and trees), travel and the people she meets. She is also interested in exploring the stillness of the domestic and the everyday. This is her first picture book.

Activities

English

In *A Feast for Wombat* all the animals are good at different things. When Wombat compliments them on how good they are at their special thing, he says they do one thing *like* something else.

He says to Goanna, 'You run like the wind'.

He says to Maggie, 'You sing like a beautiful bubbling stream'.

He says to Dingo, 'You dance like the clouds'.

Wombat compares his friends' actions to things that he sees in the world around him.

- As a class, brainstorm similes comparing an action a class member might do, to make sentences such as 'He hops like a frog', or 'He climbs like a monkey'. Some of the actions you can use might be:
 - Run
 - Jump
 - Sing
 - Dance
 - Hop
 - Skip
 - Climb
 - Swim
 - Throw
 - Kick
 - Fly
- Individually, or in pairs, choose your favourite simile from the class list and draw or paint a picture to illustrate it.
- As a class collect the pictures into a book or use as a wall display.

Creative Activities

- Draw a picture of a food that might be found at a bush feast. Cut the picture out, and use all the pictures to make a big picture of a bush feast for the classroom wall.
- Use crayon and dye to design and make a placemat that could be used at a bush feast.
- Have a class feast – everyone can bring in some of their favourite food, or it can all be food that wombats like (carrots, fruit etc.).

- If someone was going to have a feast for you, what foods would you like to have served? Use playdough, clay, or plasticine to make models of these foods. Assemble everyone's models into a Feast Sculpture display.
- Fingerpaint a bushland scene with Wombat in it. Use open handprints to make the leaves on the trees and prints from the sides of your hands curled up to make Wombat's body. Experiment with fingerprints as rocks, and the different textures you can get in the sky when you trail your fingers across the page through the paint. Glue cotton balls on to be clouds, and add grass clippings and leaves for bushland texture.
- Take a walk around the school grounds and collect bits of natural material like leaves, twigs, flowers etc. Paint a scene from the book using the natural material as paintbrushes and to make prints.
- Make flowers like the ones shown in Wombat's feast using crepe paper, pipe cleaners and string. Decorate the classroom with them.

Science

In *A Feast for Wombat*, Wombat's friends make him a feast of delicious food. Look at the picture of the feast. What foods can you see there? What other foods do wombats like to eat?

- Find a non-fiction book about wombats in the library and read it as a class.
- Wombat lives in an underground burrow. Where would the other characters in the book (Dingo, Goanna, and Magpie) live?
- Draw a picture of Dingo, Magpie, Goanna and Wombat, showing each one in their home.

Health

In the book, Wombat keeps comparing himself to the others. He thinks that he is not as good as them, because each of them has a talent or skill that he doesn't have. Wombat's friends think that he is wonderful just the way he is, and know that he is good at all sorts of things that they aren't as good at.

- As a class, discuss the fact that everyone is different, and is good at different things.
- As a class, brainstorm a caption for every child, which relates one thing that they are good at. Children, classmates, or teachers can all contribute suggestions. Talents can be things like being nice to people, sharing, trying hard, running fast, or having good ideas.
 - Individually children illustrate their own captions.
 - Use the illustrated captions to make a Class Book. Read the book as a class.

When we are praised for our achievements, it makes us feel good about ourselves. Wombat is very good at saying nice things and making his friends feel good about themselves.

- As a class discuss how it feels when people say nice things about us.
- Wombat's friends say he makes them feel like a *champion*, a *star*, and *graceful*.

- As a class make a list of other words we can use to describe how we feel when someone says nice things about us.
- Think of nice things that we can say to our friends and family to make them feel good too.
- Paint a picture showing how we feel when someone says nice things to us. Remember to use lots of happy colours!